THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The total amount spent on the development of handicrafts during the Seventh Plan period, from 1985-86 to 1988-89 (up to January, 1989) is Rs. 3872.10 lakhs.

(b) The major steps taken by the Government in the handicrafts sector are:—

(i) imparting of training in various crafts.
(ii) technical assistance in the shape of design development.
(iii) financial & marketing assistance.
(iv) supply of raw materials.
(v) popularisation of handicrafts through exhibitions & publicity.
(vi) promotion of exports in handicrafts, through Councils, one for the handicrafts and the other for Carpets.
(vii) preservation of traditional crafts in National Handicrafts and Handloom Museum at New Delhi.
(viii) encouragement of the artisans through National Awards and pension to craft-persons in old age and infirmity.

(c) and (d) the following incentives are given to the rural artisans:—

(i) training in various crafts to the artisans.
(ii) supply of design inputs.
(iii) financial and marketing assistance.
(iv) supply of raw materials through Government Depots at reasonable prices.
(v) Presidential Awards to outstanding Master crafts persons.

Erosion of coastal area

263. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Sea coasts particularly near the major sea ports being affected by sea erosion;

(b) the percentage of coastal area facing sea erosion; and

(c) the details of centrally sponsored scheme to check sea erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) These are (i) Paradeep Port in Orissa, (ii) Vishakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh, (iii) Madras Port in Tamil Nadu; and (iv) New Mangalore Port in Karnataka.

(b) Nearly 85% of the coastline in Kerala and 26% in Karnataka is reported to be affected by sea erosion. The problem in other coastal States is not appreciable and occurs in isolated patches.

(c) There is no Centrally sponsored scheme to check sea erosion, but some assistance has been extended to Kerala.

Review of Export Credit Guarantee and Insurance for Promotion of Exports

264. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has recommended for a thorough review of export credit guarantee and insurance for promotion of exports; if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and what are their other recommendations;

(b) whether Government will reconsider the scope of and support to the ECGC in respect of export credit insurance; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the alternatives available with Government to finance and operate a State owned Institution like ECGC and whether Government are satisfied with the present set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) has stated in a proposal submitted to Government that there is need to